

**COPS Technology Program 2009  
West Valley City, Utah**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION (NARRATIVE)**

**A. Problem Identification and Justification**

West Valley City is inadequately equipped to respond to disaster and emergency situations. West Valley City needs to equip its police force with the proper tools necessary to respond to disasters, both natural and manmade, such as earthquakes or floods and more frequently occurring, violent crime incidents and terroristic threats. The project would allow for mini-mobile command posts for shift watch commanders in patrol, thus allowing the West Valley City police force to respond to daily challenges in a safe, effective, and timely manner. West Valley City began this project two years ago. They were able to purchase sport utility vehicles for the watch commanders. Since that time resources have been cut and funding was not available to finish equipping these vehicles to complete the project. Completion of this project would allow for a timely response to major incidents such as missing children, robberies, and fleeing suspect incidents, by directing vital resources to appropriate areas. This would allow for proper incident management of both personnel and equipment.

**B. Project Goals and Objectives**

West Valley City has a goal of providing a timely and professional response to major incidents, both criminal and disaster related. By doing so, West Valley City also has a goal of providing successful outcomes and positive conclusions to these types of incidents, in partnership with their citizens. The objective is to accomplish these goals by providing patrol shift watch commanders with equipment to have mini-mobile command

posts as part of their everyday patrol vehicles. The vehicles have already been purchased and are in need of the proper equipment. Much of this equipment is necessary to facilitate communication and incident management, specifically in cases of natural disaster when traditional methods of communication will most likely be inoperable. Also included with this command post are the resources necessary to complete proper personnel and equipment management by tracking available resources and any resources that may need to be called to the scene.

### **C. Community Policing Strategies/Crime Prevention Activities**

#### **a) Community Partnerships and Support**

Our department works closely with other departments within West Valley City, other governmental agencies, and private businesses in order to develop long term resolutions to community issues. Grant funding would allow us to do this more effectively and efficiently. Being able to have the resources and technology in our mini-mobile command posts would help coordinate the efforts of police officers, code enforcement officers, the Health Department, and the Housing Authority when dealing with a nuisance residence. Those same resources could be used to coordinate activities targeted at reducing specific crimes, such as vehicle burglaries or business burglaries. They could also be used to help coordinate and support community events, such as our yearly city festival which involves numerous public and private community partners.

#### **b) Related Government and Community Initiatives**

Our patrol and traffic officers are assigned and develop their own community projects that they work on each day as the call load permits. Often these projects are focused

on resolving problems brought to the officers by community members. These projects target problems such as neighborhood drug dealers, spikes in residential burglaries, graffiti in a particular neighborhood, or gang issues. These problem solving projects may go on for a day or for weeks, and may involve multiple officers. Supervisors could support these projects with the equipment in their mini-mobile command vehicles by providing on-scene information regarding involved parties and related cases, assisting in tracking the progress of the project so that time is not wasted daily in restarting the operation or repeating actions that have already been taken, and providing the officers with a place to coordinate their planning for that day's activities.

**c) Organizational Transformation**

The West Valley City Police Department is committed to using the principles of community policing, enhanced by the principles of intelligence-led policing to reduce the crime, and fear of crime, in our neighborhoods. To facilitate our goals in this area, over the past two years a new division has been formed within the police department. The Community Services Division's primary goal is to discover what the issues are in the community through community meetings and the use of crime mapping data. Now that this program is firmly in place, our next step is to involve all of our officers, especially our patrol officers, in this effort. The use of mini-mobile command posts will help our patrol supervisors access information on crime statistics and community resources in a timely manner, and allow them to then allocate their resources in the most effective manner possible to resolve these issues.

## **D. Implementation Plan**

Implementation of this project would consist of researching the specific equipment needed for the project, purchasing the equipment after obtaining any necessary quotes or bids, and having the equipment installed, creating the mini-mobile command posts. Once completed, the mini-mobile command posts would be deployed daily and the evaluation of their effectiveness could be determined on a quarterly basis.

### **TIMELINE**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter** - Research specific equipment to be purchased for mini-mobile command posts.

Obtain price quotes and bids as needed.

Order any equipment able to be ordered at this time.

Complete quarterly financial status report.

Complete semi-annual progress report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter** - Order remaining equipment.

Complete quarterly financial status report.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter** - Begin installation of equipment into mini-mobile command posts.

Complete quarterly financial status report.

Complete semi-annual progress report.

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter** - Installation continues.

Complete quarterly financial status report.

**5<sup>th</sup> Quarter** - Installation completed.

Mini-mobile command posts deployed for use.

Complete quarterly financial status report.

Complete semi-annual progress report.

Initiate and complete grant closeout procedures.

#### **E. Evaluation Plan/Effectiveness Program**

This technology will greatly enhance our ability to respond to, and resolve, both short term critical incidents, and long term quality of life issues within our community. The mini-mobile command posts are ideal on the scene of a missing person, major traffic accident, barricaded subject, or any other critical incident, as it will give the scene commander immediate access to incoming information, as well as a place to track resources being used at the incident. They are also an excellent platform to support activities that address quality of life issues, such as abatement on a nuisance property, a youth alcohol interdiction operation, or a search warrant on a local drug dealer's residence by providing a place to coordinate resources, as well as collect and process information. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the project we would track the number of times each unit was deployed to an incident by type and number of incidents. We would also be able to track the type of equipment used to resolve a situation. This would assist us in evaluating how much more effective and efficiently a major incident can be successfully concluded. This project will be monitored and reported on by the department grant manager. The grant manager will track the financial and programmatic requirements to ensure compliance.